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[Name of Document] SPECIFICATION

[Title of the Invention] METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING ELECTRO-
OPTICAL DEVICE, ELECTO-OPTICAL DEVICE, AND ELECTRONIC
APPARATUS

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A method for manufacturing for an electro-optical device that comprises a plurality of pixels each including an electro-optical material; a transflective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough; and a colored layer that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transflective layer, the method comprising:

forming an opening having a two-dimensional shape having no corner in the colored layer corresponding to the reflecting section, in each of at least some of the pixels.

[Claim 2] The method for manufacturing an electro-optical device according to Claim 1, wherein the opening has a circular or oblong circular two-dimensional shape.

[Claim 3] A method for manufacturing an electro-optical device that comprises a plurality of pixels each including an electro-optical material; a transflective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough; and a colored layer that is two-

dimensionally superimposed on the transfective layer, the method comprising:

forming an opening having a polygonal two-dimensional shape having only interior angles larger than 90 degrees in the colored layer corresponding to the reflecting section, in each of at least some of the pixels.

[Claim 4] An electro-optical device, comprising:

a plurality of pixels each including an electro-optical material; a transfective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough; and a colored layer that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transfective layer,

wherein, in each of at least some of the pixels, an opening is formed in a position that is superimposed on at least a part of the reflecting section in the colored layer, and wherein the opening has a two-dimensional shape crossing the pixel.

[Claim 5] The electro-optical device according to Claim 4, wherein the opening has a two-dimensional shape having no corner in the portions other than the boundary region between the pixels.

[Claim 6] The electro-optical device according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the opening provided in one of the pixels is disposed with respect to the opening provided in another of

the pixels adjacent thereto so that they do not adjoin to each other with the boundary region between the one of the pixels and the other of the pixels therebetween.

[Claim 7] An electronic apparatus, comprising: an electro-optical device according to any one of Claims 4 to 6; and control means for controlling the electro-optical device.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing an electro-optical device, an electro-optical device, and an electronic apparatus. More specifically, it relates to a method for manufacturing an electro-optical device having a color filter, and the construction of the same.

[0002]

[Description of the Related Art]

As is known, liquid crystal display devices, which are each a kind of electro-optical device, generally include a transmissive liquid crystal display device, which performs a transmissive display by using transmitted light emitted by illumination means such as a backlight, and a reflective liquid crystal display device, which has a reflector plate reflecting external light and which performs a reflective

display by using reflected light of the external light. The transmissive liquid crystal display device provides a relatively bright display, but its illumination means such as a backlight requires large power consumption. This raises a problem in that, when the transmissive liquid crystal display device is used for a portable electronic apparatus such as a mobile phone, its uptime is short since the battery capacity is limited. Another problem with the transmissive liquid crystal is that its display is difficult to watch outdoors during the daytime. On the other hand, the reflective liquid crystal display device requires no illumination means, but the reflective liquid crystal display device is difficult to provide sufficient brightness for display because it makes use of external light. Therefore, the reflective liquid crystal display device particularly involves a problem in that it is deficient in color reproducibility for color display and viewability in a dark place.

[0003]

Thus, a transflective liquid crystal display device capable of switching between the transmissive display and reflective display in accordance with environmental circumstances, has been proposed (see, for example, Patent Document 1). This type of liquid crystal display has a transflective layer constituting a reflecting section that

reflects external light for each of the pixel, and a transmitting section formed by an opening in a reflecting film. In this case, when illumination means is turned on, the illumination light passes through the transmitting section to thereby implement a transmissive display, while, when the illumination means is turned off, external light is reflected by the reflecting section to thereby implement a reflective display.

[0004]

In order to realize a color display in the above-described transflective liquid crystal display device, a color filter is provided on the observation side of the above-described reflecting layer (on the incident side of the external light).

[0005]

[Patent Document 1]

Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication Application No. 2002-229010 (page 5, Fig. 3)

[0006]

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

In the above-described transflective liquid crystal display device with a color filter, in the transmissive display, the illumination light passing through the transmitting section in each pixel passes through the color filter only once, whereas in the reflective display, the

reflective light formed by external light being reflected by the reflecting section in each pixel passes through the color filter twice in total in a round trip. This unfavorably causes a large difference in the color reproducibility between the transmissive display and reflective display.

[0007]

As a possible structure for solving the above-described problem, there is a structure in which an opening that is two-dimensionally superimposed on a part of the reflecting section is provided in the colored layer of the color filter. For example, as shown in Fig. 12, there is provided a transflective layer 11 by forming an opening 11a in the reflecting film, and a transmitting section 10PT and a reflecting section 10PR are constituted of the transflective layer 11. In each pixel 10P, an opening 12a is provided in a colored layer 12 of the color filter, and a part of the reflecting section 10PR of the transflective layer 11 is exposed on the incident side of external light. This allows the chromaticity of the reflective display can be adjusted independently of that of the transmissive display, by varying the opening area of the opening 12a.

[0008]

In order to form the above-described structure, a patterning method shown in Fig. 14 is used. First, as shown

in Fig. 14(a), a reflective material such as aluminum is deposited on the surface of a transparent substrate 10 such as glass substrate, and as shown in Fig. 14(b), a transflective layer 11 having an opening 11a therein is formed by patterning. Next, as shown in Fig 14(c), a colored layer 12 including a photosensitive resist is applied over the transflective layer 11. Then, as shown in Fig. 14(d), this colored layer 12 is selectively exposed by using a mask 13 formed into a predetermined mask pattern having a light-shielding section 13a, and thereby, as shown in Fig. 14(e), an opening 12a is formed in the colored layer 12.

[0009]

In this case, however, the opening 12a of the colored layer 12 is a part of the pixel 10P and an opening having an area as minute as about several micrometers to a dozen or so micrometers square, and therefore, it is difficult to accurately control the shape of the opening 12a in the above-described photolithographic process to achieve high reproducibility regarding the opening area. Also, for the reflective display, in the opening 12a, light does not pass through the colored layer at all, whereas in the area other than the opening, light passes therethrough twice in a round trip. A slight change in the opening of the opening 12a would widely vary the chromaticity of the reflective display.

This method, therefore, involves a problem in that the color reproducibility of the reflective display cannot be achieved due to variations in the opening area of the opening 12a.

[0010]

Accordingly, the present invention solve the above-described problems, and an object is to provide a method for manufacturing a transflective electro-optical device and its structure capable of adjusting the chromaticity of the reflective display, and of improving the reproducibility of the adjusted reflective display.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problems]

To solve the above-described problems, the present invention provides a method for manufacturing for an electro-optical device that comprises a plurality of pixels each including an electro-optical material; a transflective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough; and a colored layer that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transflective layer, wherein the method includes forming an opening having a two-dimensional shape having no corner in the colored layer corresponding to the reflecting section, in each of at least some of the pixels.

[0012]

The present inventors have conducted an intensive close study of variations in the opening area of the colored layer, and have found that, when patterning the colored layer by the photolithography, the opening shape is apt to be deformed in the vicinity of the corners of the opening, and that the reproducibility of the opening shape in the vicinity of the corners of the opening is low. For example, when the colored layer is a negative resist, the vicinity of the corner portions of the opening is susceptible to exposure due to diffracted light or the like as compared with the other portions thereof, and therefore, as shown in Fig. 13, the colored layer is prone to remain in vicinity of the corners of an opening 12a during a development operation (in the case of the negative resist). It is, however, very hard to control the extent to which the colored layer remains, which makes it difficult to secure the reproducibility of the opening area.

[0013]

Accordingly, the inventors attempted to form an opening in the colored layer by a pattern having a two-dimensional shape without corner. This makes it possible to reduce variations in opening shape and inhibit fluctuations in the opening area, because the pattern itself for forming the opening has a two-dimensional shape without corner. Namely, the inhibition of fluctuations in the opening area by the

formation of an opening having a two-dimensional shape without corner, allows the color reproducibility of the reflective display to be increased, and enables the display quality thereof to be significantly improved.

[0014]

Besides the case where patterning is performed by a photolithographic method in which exposure/development is performed by using a photosensitive layer as described above, the case where patterning is performed by a method in which a mask is formed on the colored layer and in which etching or the like is performed via the mask, also produces the above-described effect. This is because the shape without corner inhibits the occurrence of side etching.

[0015]

The two-dimensional shape of the above-described opening may assume a circular shape, an oblong circular shape, or the like. Here, the oblong circular shape includes an elliptical shape.

[0016]

The present invention provides another method for manufacturing an electro-optical device that comprises a plurality of pixels each including an electro-optical material; a transfective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough;

and a colored layer that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transfective layer, wherein the method includes forming an opening having a polygonal two-dimensional shape having only interior angles larger than 90 degrees in the colored layer corresponding to the reflecting section, in each of at least some of the pixels.

[0017]

In this invention, because the opening in the colored layer has a polygonal two-dimensional shape having only interior angles larger than 90 degrees, it is possible to reduce fluctuations in the exposure intensity in the vicinity of the corner of the pattern when the opening is formed. This reduces variations in the opening shape and inhibits fluctuations in the opening area. In addition, in the present invention, when the colored layer is formed of a negative resist, the use of the above-described pattern allows the avoidance of the concentration of diffracted light onto a specific position during an exposure operation, as compared with the case where a circular or elliptical pattern is used. This prevents the occurrence of remaining points in the colored layer inside the pattern due to the concentration of the diffracted light.

[0018]

Next, the present invention provides an electro-optical device that includes a plurality of pixels each including an

electro-optical material; a transflective layer constituting a reflecting section that reflects light for each of the pixels, and a transmitting section that allows light to pass therethrough; and a colored layer that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transflective layer, wherein, in each of at least some of the pixels, an opening is formed in a position that is superimposed on at least a part of the reflecting section in the colored layer, and wherein the opening has a two-dimensional shape crossing the pixel.

[0019]

According to this invention, since the opening in the colored layer has a two-dimensional shape crossing the pixel, it is possible to form the opening into a two-dimensional shape having no corner in the portions other than the boundary region, (i.e., within the pixel), or it is possible to form the opening into a shape such as not to generate the concentration of diffracted light, side etching, or the like in the pixel during a patterning operation. This allows fluctuations in the opening shape in the opening to be inhibited, and enables variations in the opening area thereof to be suppressed, thereby improving the color reproducibility of the reflective display.

[0020]

In the present invention, it is preferable that the opening has a two-dimensional shape having no corner in the

portions other than the boundary region between the pixels. This further improves the reproducibility of the opening area. Here, the opening is preferably formed into a band shape crossing the pixel.

[0021]

In the present invention, it is preferable that the opening provided in one of the pixels is disposed with respect to the opening provided in another of the pixels adjacent thereto so that they do not adjoin to each other with the boundary region between the one of the pixels and the other of the pixels therebetween. This eliminates the openings of adjacent pixels adjoining to each other with the boundary region therebetween, thereby inhibiting the reduction in the contrast of the reflective display. For example, the boundary region between pixels is usually a non-driving region for an electro-optical material, and therefore, if the openings of both pixels are adjacent to each other, the amount of reflected light from the non-driving boundary region increases, thereby relatively reducing the contrast. In contrast to this, if the openings of both pixels are not adjacent to each other with the boundary region therebetween, the amount of reflected light from the boundary region can be reduced because there exists a colored layer on at least one side of the boundary region.

[0022]

Next, the present invention provides an electronic apparatus including any one of the above-described electro-optical devices; and control means for controlling the electro-optical device. An example of this electronic apparatus is a mobile phone, portable information terminal, electronic watch, or the like.

[0023]

[Description of the Embodiments]

Next, embodiments of a method for manufacturing an electro-optical device, an electro-optical device, and an electronic apparatus according to the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the embodiments, descriptions are made taking the case where a liquid crystal display is formed as an electro-optical device as example.

[0024]

Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view showing the external appearance of a liquid crystal panel 200 constituting an electro-optical device of a first embodiment according to the present invention. Fig. 2 is a schematic enlarged sectional view of one portion of a display area A of the liquid crystal panel 200.

[0025]

This electro-optical device is formed by mounting an illumination device such as a backlight 270 as shown in Fig.

2 and a case member as required, with respect to the liquid crystal panel 200 shown in Fig. 1 which has a so-called transflective type passive matrix structure.

[0026]

As shown in Fig. 1, the liquid crystal panel 200 is formed into a cell structure by laminating together, via a sealing member 230, a color filter substrate 210 using a transparent first substrate 211 as a base member constituted of a glass plate, a synthetic resin plate or the like, and a opposed substrate 220 opposed to this color filter substrate 210 and using a second substrate 221 similar to the first substrate as a base member, then injecting a liquid crystal 232 (see Fig. 2) inside the sealing member 230 through an injection port 230a, and thereafter completely sealing the liquid crystal 232 with a sealant 231.

[0027]

On the inner surface of the first substrate 211 (on the surface opposed to the second substrate 221), a plurality of transparent electrodes 216 are arranged in stripes in parallel with each other, and on the inner surface of the second substrate 221, a plurality of transparent electrodes 222 are arranged in stripes in parallel with each other. The transparent electrodes 216 are electrically connected to wiring 218A, and the transparent electrodes 222 are electrically connected to wiring 228. The transparent

electrodes 216 and the transparent electrodes 222 orthogonally intersect mutually, and the intersecting regions thereof constitute large numbers of pixels arranged in a matrix configuration. This pixel array constitutes the display region A.

[0028]

The first substrate 211 has a substrate extending portion 210T extending further outward than an outer shape of the second substrate 221. On the substrate extending portion 210T, there are provided wiring 218B electrically connected to the aforementioned wiring 218A and wiring 228 through upper and lower conductive portions, respectively, formed of a part of the sealing member 230, and an input terminal section 219 comprising a plurality of wiring patterns independently formed. Also, on the substrate extending portion 210T, a semiconductor IC chip 261 incorporating a liquid crystal driving circuit and the like is mounted so as to be electrically connected to the wiring 218A, wiring 218B, and input terminal section 219. Furthermore, a flexible wiring substrate 263 is mounted on the end of the substrate extending portion 210T so as to be electrically connected to the input terminal section 219.

[0029]

As shown in Fig. 2, in the liquid crystal panel 200, a phase difference plate (1/4 wavelength plate) 240 and a

polarizing plate 241 are provided on the outer surface of the first substrate 211, and a phase difference plate (1/4 wavelength plate) 250 and a polarizing plate 251 are provided on the outer surface of the second substrate 221.

[0030]

A backlight 270 shown in Fig. 2 includes a light source 271 constituted of LED (light-emitting diode) or the like, a light guide plate 272 constituted of a transparent material such as an acryl resin, and a reflector plate 273 disposed behind the light guide plate 272. On the front side of the light guide plate 272, there is provided a dispersion plate 281, and further on the front side of the dispersion plate 281, there are provided light condensing plates 282 and 283. The light condensing plates 282 and 283 are for increasing the directivity of the illumination light of the backlight 270.

Next, the structure of the color filter substrate 210 will be described in detail with reference to Fig. 2. A transflective layer 212 is formed on the surface of the first substrate 211, and it has a transmitting section 212a opened for each pixel 200P. In the transflective layer 212, the portion other than the transmitting section 212a is substantially a reflecting section 212b that reflects light. In the case of the present invention, the transflective layer 212 constitutes the transmitting section 212a and the

reflecting section 212b for each pixel 200P. Here, the transfective layer 212 may be formed for each of the pixels 200P, or alternatively, it may be integrally formed over the entire display region A (see Fig. 1) in a manner such that the transmitting section 212a is provided for each of the pixels 200P.

[0031]

A colored layer 214 is formed over the transfective layer 212, and a surface protective layer (overcoat layer) 215 constituted of a transparent resin or the like covers the colored layer. These colored layer 214 and surface protective layer 215 constitute a color filter.

[0032]

The colored layer 214 is usually treated as exhibiting a predetermined color tone by dispersing coloring materials such as pigments or dyes into a transparent resin. An example of color tone of colored layers is such that is constituted of a set of three colors: R (red), G (green), and B (blue) with primary color filters. However, the way of forming a color tone is not limited to this method. The color tone of the colored layer can also be formed by using complementary colors or other various color tones. Usually, a coloring resist constituted of a photosensitive resin comprising coloring materials such as pigments or dyes is applied to the surface of the substrate, and unnecessary

portions are removed by a photolithography, whereby a colored layer having a predetermined color pattern is formed. Here, when a plurality of color tones are to be formed, the above-described process is repeated.

[0033]

Fig. 3 shows an array pattern of colored layers of a color filter arranged as described above. In this embodiment, stripe-array color filters, in which band-like colored layers 214 of R, G, and B are arranged in stripes. In addition, black stripe-shaped light-shielding layers 218 are formed between pixels 200P adjacent to each other in the up-and-down direction in the figure of the colored layers 214. The light-shielding layer 218 is formed of a black resin layer or the like.

[0034]

In the illustrated example in Fig. 3, as an array pattern of the colored layer, a stripe array is adopted. However, besides the stripe array, various pattern shapes, such as a delta array or slant mosaic array, can also be adopted. Also, in this embodiment, in some of the pixels 200P, openings described later are formed in respective colored layers, but the openings are omitted in Figs. 2 and Fig. 3.

[0035]

Returning to Fig. 2 again, transparent electrodes 216

each consisted of a transparent conductive member such as ITO (indium tin oxide) are formed on the surface protective layer 215. Each transparent electrode 216 is formed into a band shape extending in the up-and-down direction in Fig. 3. A plurality of transparent electrodes 216 are arranged in stripes in parallel with each other. An alignment film 217 formed of a polyimide resin or the like is formed over the transparent electrodes 216.

[0036]

On the other hand, in the above-described liquid crystal panel 200, the opposed substrate 220 opposed to the color filter substrate 210 is formed by sequentially stacking the transparent electrodes 222 that is the same as the above-described one, a hard protective film 223 constituted of SiO_2 , TiO_2 , or the like, and an alignment film 224 that is the same as the above-described one, in this order on the second substrate 221.

[0037]

As shown in Fig. 3, the pixels 200P arranged on the display region A shown in Fig. 1, are constructed as a planar range in which the transparent electrodes 216 and the transparent electrodes 222 mutually intersect. Between the pixels 200P, there are boundary regions BR that are not sandwiched between the transparent electrodes 216 and the respective transparent electrodes 222. A part of each of

the boundary regions BR is shielded from light by the above-described light-shielding layer 218. In this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 3, the boundary regions between the pixels adjacent to each other in up-and-down direction in Fig. 3 are each shielded from light by the light-shielding layer 218, but the boundary regions BR between the pixels adjacent to each other in right-and-left direction in Fig. 3 are not shielded from light.

[0038]

The foregoing is descriptions of the overall construction of the electro-optical device in the present invention. Hereinafter, more detailed descriptions will be made, with reference to Figs. 4 to 11, of pattern shapes of color filters. Here, Figs. 4 to 11 show pattern shapes of respective colored layers in pixels, in a schematic manner. Therefore, even in the case where a plurality of pixels (for example, three pixels corresponding to colors R, G, and B) are represented in these figures, the patterns depicted in the figures do not represent relative array patterns or two-dimensional shapes of the boundary regions between pixels.

[0039]

(First Embodiment)

Fig. 4 illustrates the two-dimensional shapes of colored layers 214 in respective pixels in a first embodiment according to the present embodiment. In the

first embodiment, colored layers 214r, 214g, and 214b, respectively, are formed in a plurality of pixels of R, G, and B. An opening 214ra is formed in the colored layer 214r provided for the pixel of R(red), and an opening 214ga is formed in the colored layer 214g provided for the pixel of G(green). No opening is formed in the colored layer 214b provided for the pixel of B (blue). With these arrangements, a part of the reflecting section 212b of the transflective layer 212 that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the colored layer 214r is not covered with the colored layer 214r, but is in an exposed state. Also, parts of the reflecting section 212b of the transflective layer 212 that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the colored layer 214g is not covered with the colored layer 214g, but are in exposed states.

[0040]

The above-described arrangements can be formed by the same method in the patterning process shown in Fig. 14. However, when the patterning process shown in Fig. 14 is to be performed, mask patterns corresponding to masks 13 each having the light-shielding section 13a are used as shapes corresponding to the above-described openings 214ra and 214ga. For example, the two-dimensional shape of the opening 214ra is an elliptical shape, and this is implemented by performing patterning with a mask pattern

having a two-dimensional shape such as an elliptical shape. For example, when the colored layer as shown in Fig. 14 is formed of a negative resist, the shape of the light-shielding section 13a is formed as an elliptical shape. Here, the application of the present invention is not limited to the case where a colored layer is formed of a negative resist. The present invention can adopt various methods of patterning the colored layer with a predetermined pattern for forming the opening in the colored layer.

[0041]

As compared with the case where there is provided the opening having a two-dimensional shape with corners as shown in Figs. 12 and 13, such formation of the opening 214ra with a mask pattern without corner makes it possible to reduce fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area during an patterning operation with respect to the colored layer 214, and to increase the reproducibility thereof. In particular, in the reflective display, the display color significantly changes as the opening area changes, and therefore, in the first embodiment, it is possible to produce a noticeable effect of significantly improving the color reproducibility of the reflective display.

[0042]

The opening 214ga can be formed by using mask patterns each having a band-like two-dimensional shape that crosses a

pixel. In this case, even though the openings 214ga are each formed into a rectangular shape as shown in the Fig. 4, fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area are reduced and thereby excellent reproducibility thereof is provided, since the corners of each of the openings 214ga in the colored layer 214g is situated on the boundary line of the pixel (the line showing the boundary between the pixel 200P and the boundary area BR, as shown in Fig. 3).

Furthermore, by forming each of the openings 214ga into a pattern extended up to the inside of the boundary region BR (see Fig. 3) between pixels, the arrangement can be configured so that the corners of each of the openings 214ga do not substantially exist in the pixel. This more reduces fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area.

[0043]

The arrangement in Fig. 5 is a modification of the first embodiment. In this modification, openings 314ra are provided in the colored layer 314r, each with a pattern having a circular two-dimensional shape, and openings 314ga each having an elliptical two-dimensional shape are provided in the colored layer 314g. The openings 314ra and 314ga partially expose the respective reflecting section 312b of the transfective layer so as not to be covered with the colored layer 314. This modification also reduces fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area of the

openings 314ra and 314ga, thereby increasing the color reproducibility of the reflective display.

[0044]

In the above-described examples shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the opening areas of the openings 214ga and 314ga, which partially expose the reflecting section 212b and 312b, respectively, are the largest in the pixel of G (green) pixel, and the opening areas of the openings 214ga and 314ga, which partially expose the reflecting section 212b and 312b, respectively, are smaller in the pixel of R (red). Since the reflective display is generally formed of reflected light that has twice past through the colored layer, the reflective display exhibits higher chroma than that of the transmissive display. However, in this manner, by causing the respective opening areas in the colored layer 214g and 314g to be larger in the pixel of G (green) than in the other pixels, the ratio of the amount of reflected light that is reflected without passing through the colored layer in the pixel of G increases. This reduces the difference in chromaticity between the reflective display and the transmissive display.

[0045]

(Second Embodiment)

Next, a second embodiment will be described with reference to Fig. 6. In the second embodiment, an opening

414a having a polygonal two-dimensional shape is provided in a colored layer 414 in a pixel. More specifically, the opening 414a is formed by using a mask pattern P4 having an octagonal two-dimensional shape that is formed by chamfering four corners of a rectangular shape. Here, the mask pattern P4 has eight corners, and the interior angle θ of each of these corners is an angle larger than 90 degrees (i.e., an obtuse angle). In particular, in order to effectively reduce variations in the opening shape and opening area, it is preferable that every interior angle be not less than 110 degrees.

[0046]

In this way, using the polygonal mask pattern P4 in which the interior angle θ of each of the corners thereof is an obtuse angle makes it possible to inhibit fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area and increase the reproducibility thereof, as compared the conventional methods shown in Figs. 12 and 13. Specifically, if the above-described interior angle θ is 90 degrees or less, the shape of the opening is apt to be deformed and the opening area thereof is prone to vary due to diffraction of light, side etching, or the like during an exposure operation. However, if the interior angle θ is an obtuse angle larger than 90 degrees, especially 110 degrees or more, the above-described diffraction of light, side etching or the like

rarely occurs, thereby reducing variations in the opening shape and opening area.

[0047]

Incidentally, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11, when the elliptical opening 214a or circular openings 314a, respectively, are provided in the colored layers 214 and 314, and especially when there is provided a process in which exposure is performed using a negative resist, diffracted light concentrates on the focus positions 214s of the ellipse or the central position 314s of the circle, because an elliptical mask pattern P2 or a circular mask pattern P3 has a size of a several micrometers to a dozen or so micrometers. This unfavorable causes the colored layers 214 and 314 to remain in the vicinity of the focus positions 214s or the central position 314s, respectively.

[0048]

In contrast, since the mask pattern for forming the opening 414a of the second embodiment is formed into a polygonal shape, diffracted light disperses without concentrating on one spot during above-described patterning operation, thereby reducing the risk of the remaining of the colored layers as described above.

[0049]

Fig. 7 illustrates a modification of the second embodiment. In this modification, openings 514a are formed

in a colored layer 514, in the position where the colored layer 514 is superimposed on the reflecting section 512b of a transfective layer 512. The openings 514a are formed by a mask pattern P5 having a polygonal two-dimensional shape. The mask pattern 5 has substantially a regular hexagonal two-dimensional shape, and every interior angle thereof is approximately 120 degrees.

[0050]

In each of the above described second embodiment and modification thereof, it is essential only that the interior angle θ of every corner is formed as an obtuse angle, but it is desirable that the interior angle θ is as large as possible in reducing variations in the opening shape and opening area. However, in order to increase the interior angle θ , it is necessary to increase the number of corners of a polygonal shape. Increasing the number of corners causes the edge shape of an opening to approach an arc or elliptical arc shape, and thereby diffracted light becomes apt to concentrate on a specified spot during an exposure operation. Considering all the above-described factors involved, it is desirable that the polygonal two-dimensional shape of a mask pattern has a corner number of approximately 6 to 10.

[0051]

(Third Embodiment)

Next, a third embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 8. In the third embodiment, an opening 614ra is formed in a colored layer 614r, an opening 614ga is formed in a colored layer 614g, and an opening 614ba is formed in a colored layer 614b. Each of the 614ra, 614ga, and 614ba is configured to cross a pixel 600P. Specifically, each of the openings 614ra, 614ga, and 614ba is arranged to extend from a portion on the boundary line of the pixel 600P and arrive at another portion of the boundary line. In the illustrated example, pixels 600P each having a substantially square two-dimensional shape are formed, and each of the pixels 600P has four side edges. In this embodiment, all cases in each of which an opening is formed so as to cross at least two different side edges of the pixel 600P are included. Therefore, not only the case where the opening crosses the pixel 600P in the right-and-left direction (in Fig. 8) as the illustrated example, but also the case where the opening crosses the pixel 600P in the up-and-down direction (in Fig. 8) and the case where the opening crosses the pixel 600P in a slanting direction are included in this embodiment. Furthermore, in the case where the opening crosses the pixel 600P in a slanting direction, a configuration in which an opening is formed as a triangular shape in the vicinity of a corner of the pixel 600P is included in this embodiment.

[0052]

With these arrangements, the corners of an opening in the pixel 600P come to be disposed on the boundary line of the pixel 600P, and therefore, during a patterning operation with respect to a colored layer for providing an opening, fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area is suppressed and variations in the opening area is reduced, thereby increasing the color reproducibility of the reflecting display. In addition, by forming an opening in the colored layer so as to extend up to the inside of the boundary region BR (see Fig. 3) situated outside the pixel 600P, the arrangement can also be configured so that the corners of the opening do not substantially exist in the pixel 600P. This more reduces fluctuations and variations in the opening area.

[0053]

In this embodiment, the opening 614ra in the pixel 600P having the colored layer 614r provided therefor, and the adjacent opening 614ga in the pixel having the colored layer 614g provided therefor, are configured not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region BR (see Fig. 3) between the two pixels therebetween. Specifically, in the illustrated example, the openings 614r and 614g are formed in the positions spaced apart from each other in the up-and-down direction in Fig. 8. Likewise, the openings 614g and 614ba

are formed in the positions spaced apart from each other in the up-and-down direction in Fig. 8 so as not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region therebetween. Moreover, the openings 614ba and 614ra are formed in the positions spaced apart from each other in the up-and-down direction in Fig. 8 so as not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region therebetween.

[0054]

As described above, in the third embodiment, by forming the respective openings of the colored layers provided in pixels mutually adjacent so as not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region therebetween, the arrangement is configured to prevent the occurrence of the event that no colored layer exists in the boundary layer and no colored layer exists on either side the boundary layer.

[0055]

However, the boundary region BR shown in Fig. 3 is situated outside the region where a pair of transparent electrodes 216 and 222 are opposed to each other, and therefore, it is a non-driving region where a regular electric field is not sufficiently applied to an electro-optical material (liquid crystal). In this boundary region, therefore, on-off control of display cannot be sufficiently performed, and some leakage of light always occurs. As a result, if openings are provided on both sides of the

boundary region, the ratio of the light amount emitted from the boundary region with respect to the light amount emitted from the pixel, which contributes to the display, relatively increases, thereby causing the reduction in the contrast in the reflective display. In this embodiment, by forming the respective openings in pixels mutually adjacent so as not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region therebetween, it is possible to inhibit the reduction in the contrast in the reflective display as described above.

[0056]

Fig. 9 illustrates a modification of the above-described third embodiment. In this modification, openings 714ra, 714ga, and 714ba are formed in colored layers 714r, 714g, and 714b, respectively. This modification is the same as the above-described third embodiment in that, in pixels adjacent to each other, the respective openings are formed so as not to adjoin to each other with the boundary region therebetween. However, this modification is different from the third embodiment in that, in transflective layers 712 in this modification, respective transmitting section 712a are formed in different positions from each other between pixels mutually adjacent. More specifically, in accordance with the pixel array along the crossing direction of the openings (i.e., along the right-and-left direction in the Fig. 9), the transmitting sections 712a are arranged in a staggered

configuration (for example, arranged alternately in the up-and-down directions in Fig. 9).

[0057]

In this modification also, the opening area of the opening 714ga in the pixel of G is larger than each of the opening areas of the openings 714ra and 714ba of the other pixels of R and B. Here, patterns are formed in a manner such that the opening 714ga of the pixel of G is adjacent to the transmitting section 712a of each of the pixels of R and B that are adjacent to the pixel of G, and that the transmitting section 712a of the pixel of G is adjacent to the openings 714ra and 714ba, respectively, of the pixels of R and B that are adjacent to the pixel of G. This allows a design such that openings in pixels mutually adjacent are more spaced apart from each other to be implemented.

[0058]

The constructions of the colored layers having various opening shapes as described above, are arbitrarily applicable to the basic construction in the embodiments of the present invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3. In the embodiments of the present invention applied in this way, a part of external light entering the reflecting section 212b from the opposed substrate 220 side passes through the colored layer 214, and thereafter it is reflected from the reflecting section 212b of the transflective layer 212.

Other part of the external light passes through the opening 214a, and after being reflected from the reflecting section 212b, again passes through the opposed substrate 220 to thereby exit. In this case, the external light passing through the colored layer 214 twice passes through the colored layer 214 in a round trip, but the external light passing through the opening 214a exits without passing through the colored layer 214 at all. Therefore, it is possible to improve the lightness of the reflective display as compared with the case where the colored layer 214 covers the entire transfective layer 212 in a pixel.

[0059]

On the other hand, the colored layer 214 covers the entire transmitting section 212a of the transfective layer 212, and therefore, when, for example, the color filter substrate 210 is irradiated with illumination light from behind by providing a backlight or the like behind the color filter substrate 210, a part of the illumination light passes through the transmitting section 212a, and after passing through the colored layer 214, passes through the liquid crystal 232 and opposed substrate 220 to thereby exit. Thus, the transmitting light passes through the colored layer 214 only once, and hence, a color of the transmissive display in accordance with a color density (i.e., an extent to which a deviation is provided to the spectrum

distribution in the visible light region when light is allowed to pass through) of the colored layer 214 is acquired. In this case, the chroma of the reflected light decreases since the reflected light includes a reflected light component that has not passed through the colored layer, as described above. Thereby, it is possible to reduce the chroma of the reflective display as compared with the case where no opening is provided to the colored layer. As a result, design can be made such as to provide a state in which the chroma of the transmissive display is relatively increased.

[0060]

In this embodiment, by forming the colored layer 214 so that its optical characteristic corresponds to the transmissive display and adjusting the reflection area of the reflecting section 212b that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the colored layer 214, in accordance with the area of the above-described opening, the color, especially lightness of the reflective display can be secured. Therefore, it is possible to increase the chroma of the transmissive display while securing the lightness of the reflective display. In addition, the difference in the color (especially the chroma and lightness) between the reflective display and transmissive display, can be reduced.

[0061]

The above-described arrangement is especially suitable for and effective in the case where a colored layer is to be formed, as a whole, in a uniform color density (for example, in a uniform concentration of pigment or dye), and simultaneously the colored layer is to be formed into a uniform thickness, as in the manufacturing process of an ordinary color filter. In this case, the optical characteristic of the region that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the transmitting section 212a in the colored layer 214 and that of the region that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the reflecting section 212b in the colored layer 214 substantially coincide with each other. Therefore, in such a situation, the conventional structure would inevitably cause a large difference in the chroma and lightness between the reflective display color and transmissive display color.

[0062]

Because the reflective display and transmissive display have respective suited color development modes, it might be better if they could have respective independent color filters. In actuality, however, in order to prevent an increase in the number of man-hours in the manufacturing process, it is desirable to implement both displays by a common color filter from the viewpoint of manufacturing. In this embodiment, by adjusting the ratio of the reflected

light passing through the colored layer, it is possible to separately set the coloring mode of the reflective display and that of the transmissive mode, even if the colored layer superimposed on the transmitting section and that superimposed on the reflecting section are of the same material.

[0063]

Meanwhile, in the present invention and the above-described embodiments, the opening of the reflecting section may be formed so as to fully expose the reflecting layer, or alternatively, it may be formed so that the colored layer is partially reduced in thickness without being exposed.

[0064]

[Electronic apparatus]

Lastly, an electronic apparatus of an embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 15 and 16. In this embodiment, an embodiment in the case where the liquid crystal panel 200 of the above-described electro-optical device is used as display means is explained. Fig. 15 is a schematic block diagram of the overall construction of a control system (display control system) with respect to the liquid crystal 200 in the electronic apparatus according to this embodiment. The electronic apparatus shown here has a display control circuit 290 including a display information output source

291, display information processing circuit 292, power supply circuit 293, and timing generator 294.

[0065]

Also, the liquid crystal panel 200 as described above has a drive circuit 261 for driving the above-described display region A (i.e., a liquid crystal circuit comprising semiconductor IC chips directly mounted on the liquid crystal panel 200 in the above illustrated example).

[0066]

The display information output source 291 includes a memory comprising ROM (Read Only Memory), RAM (Random Access Memory), or the like, a storage unit comprising a magnetic recording disk, optical recording disk, or the like, and a tuning circuit for synchronously outputting digital image signals. The display information output source 291 is configured to provide the display information processing circuit 292 with display information in the form of image signals or the like of a predetermined format, based on various clock signals generated by the timing generator 294.

[0067]

The display information processing circuit 292 includes well-known circuits, such as a serial/parallel converting circuit, amplification/inversion circuit, rotation circuit, gamma correction circuit, and clamp circuit. The display information processing circuit 292 performs the processing

of inputted display information, and supplies this image information to the drive circuit 261 together with a clock signal CLK. The drive circuit 261 includes scanning line drive circuit, signal line drive circuit, and inspection circuit. Also, the power supply circuit 293 supplies a predetermined voltage to each of the above-described components.

[0068]

Fig. 8 shows a mobile phone according to an embodiment of the present invention. The mobile phone 1000 includes an operation section 1001 and display section 1002. A plurality of operation buttons are arranged on the front surface of the operation section 1001, and a microphone is incorporated into the transmission section thereof. Also, a speaker is provided within reception section of the display section 1002.

[0069]

In the above-described display section 1002, a circuit board 1100 is provided in the case member, and the liquid crystal panel 200 is mounted on the circuit board 1100. The liquid crystal panel 200 disposed in the case member is configured so that the display surface is visually recognized through a display window 200A.

[0070]

The electro-optical device and electronic apparatus

according to the present invention are not limited to the above-described illustrated examples, but it is to be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the true scope and spirit of the present invention. For example, although the electro-optical device shown in any of the above-described embodiments is a liquid crystal display having a liquid crystal panel, but instead of display device having the liquid crystal panel, display devices that have various electro-optical panels, such as an inorganic electroluminescence device, organic electroluminescence device, plasma display, FED (field emission display) can also be employed. The above-described embodiment is related to a liquid crystal panel having a so-called COG type structure in which IC chips are directly mounted on at least one side substrate thereof.

Alternatively, however, a display panel having a structure referred to as COF structure in which a liquid crystal panel is connected to a flexible wiring board or a TAB board, and in which IC chips or the like are mounted on such a wiring board, may be adopted.

[0071]

[Advantages]

As described above, according to the present invention, in a transflective electro-optical device, when an opening that is two-dimensionally superimposed on the reflecting

section of a transfective layer is provided in the colored layer of a color filter, the reproducibility of the opening area of the opening can be increased, which allows the color reproducibility of the reflective display to be improved.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view of the overall construction of an electro-optical device of an embodiment according to the present invention.

[Fig. 2]

Fig. 2 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view of the sectional structure of the electro-optical device according to the embodiment.

[Fig. 3]

Fig. 3 is a plan view showing an array pattern of colored layers of a color filter of the embodiment.

[Fig. 4]

Fig. 4 is an explanatory view showing the shapes of the colored layers in pixels according to a first embodiment.

[Fig. 5]

Fig. 5 is an explanatory view showing a modification of the first embodiment.

[Fig. 6]

Fig. 6 is an explanatory view of the shape of the colored layer in a pixel according to a second embodiment.

[Fig. 7]

Fig. 7 is an explanatory view showing a modification of the second embodiment.

[Fig. 8]

Fig. 8 is an explanatory view representation of the shapes of the colored layers in pixels according to a third embodiment.

[Fig. 9]

Fig. 9 is an explanatory view showing a modification of the third embodiment.

[Fig. 10]

Fig. 10 is an explanatory view of a mask pattern P2 of the first embodiment.

[Fig. 11]

Fig. 11 is an explanatory view of a mask pattern P3 of a modification of the first embodiment.

[Fig. 12]

Fig. 12 is an explanatory view of the formation states of colored layers having rectangular openings.

[Fig. 13]

Fig. 13 is an enlarged plan view of the shape of an opening for illustrating the shape in more detail.

[Fig. 14]

Figs. 14(a) to 14(e) are explanatory views showing a patterning process for forming an opening in colored layers.

[Fig. 15]

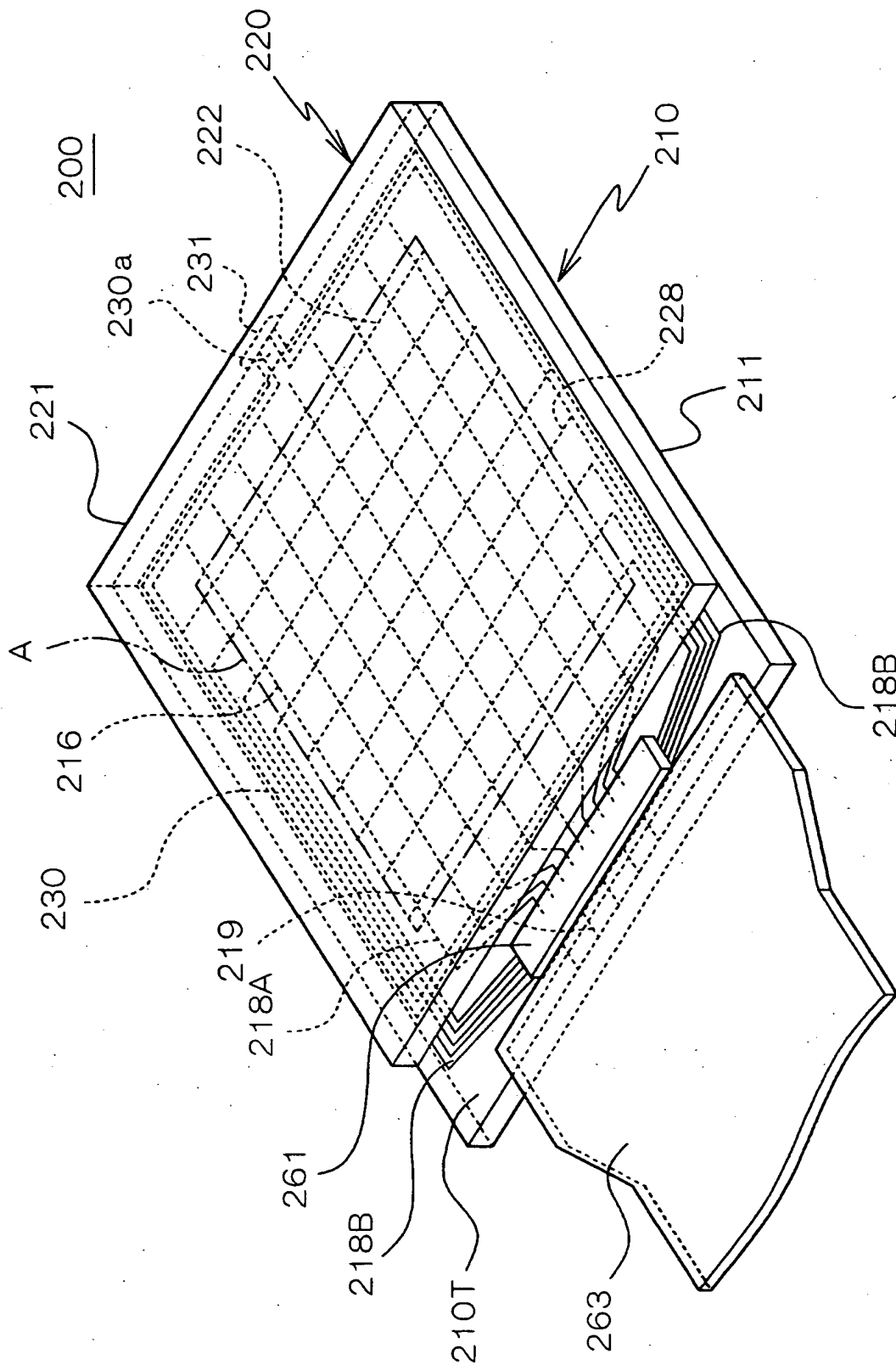
[Name of Document] ABSTRACT

[Abstract]

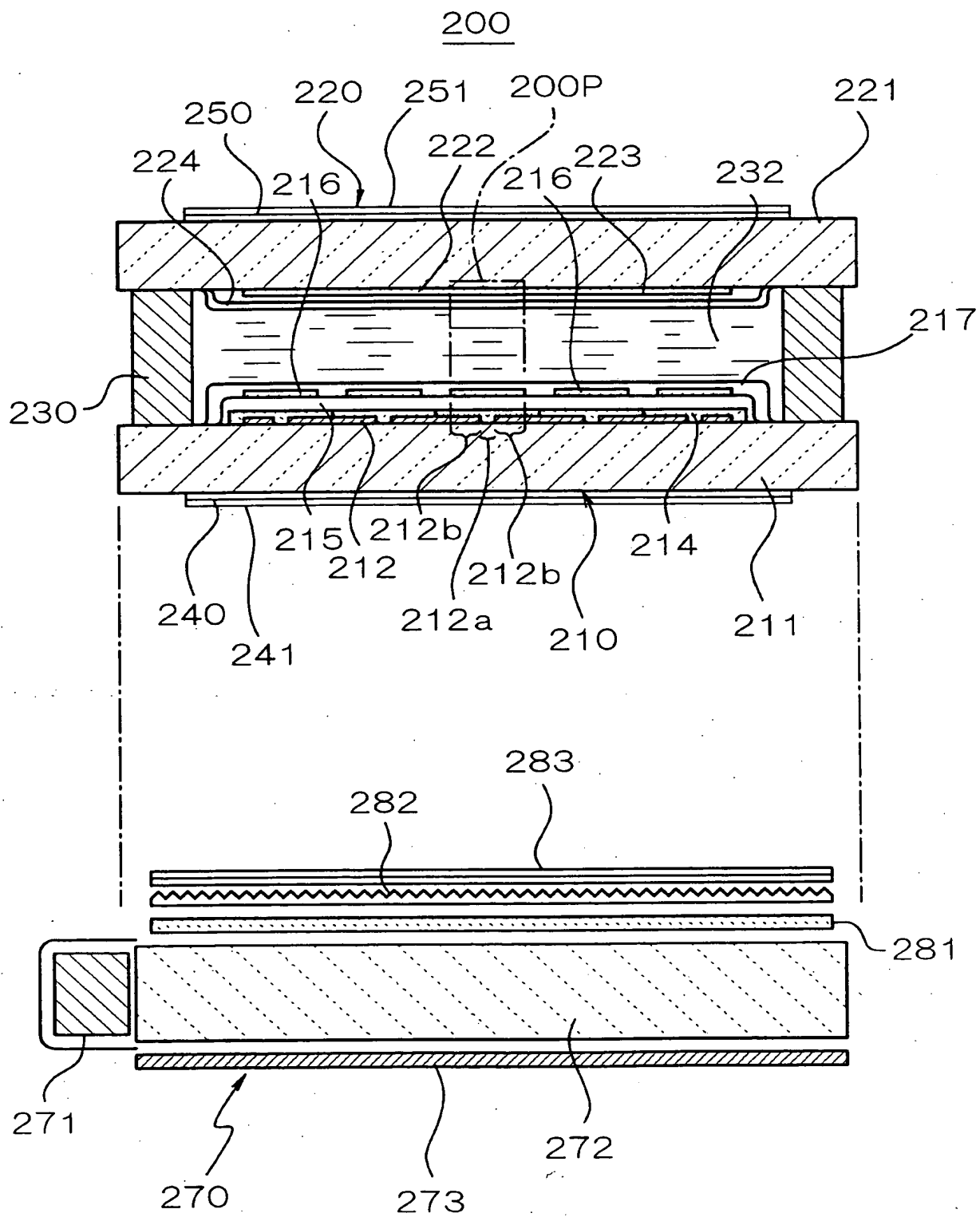
[Object] To provide a method for manufacturing a transflective electro-optical device capable of adjusting the chromaticity of a reflective display, and of improving the color reproducibility of the reflective display.

[Solving Means] An opening 214ra is formed in a colored layer 214r provided in a pixel of R, and a part of the reflecting section 212b of a transflective layer 212 is exposed without being covered with the colored layer 214r. The opening 214ra has an elliptical two-dimensional shape, and can be formed, in a patterning process, by a mask pattern having a two-dimensional shape without corner, such as an elliptical shape. As compared with the case where the opening having a two-dimensional shape having corners is provided, such formation of the opening 214ra makes it possible to inhibit fluctuations in the opening shape and opening area during an patterning operation with respect to the colored layer 214r, and reduce variations in the opening area, thereby increasing the color reproducibility of the reflective display.

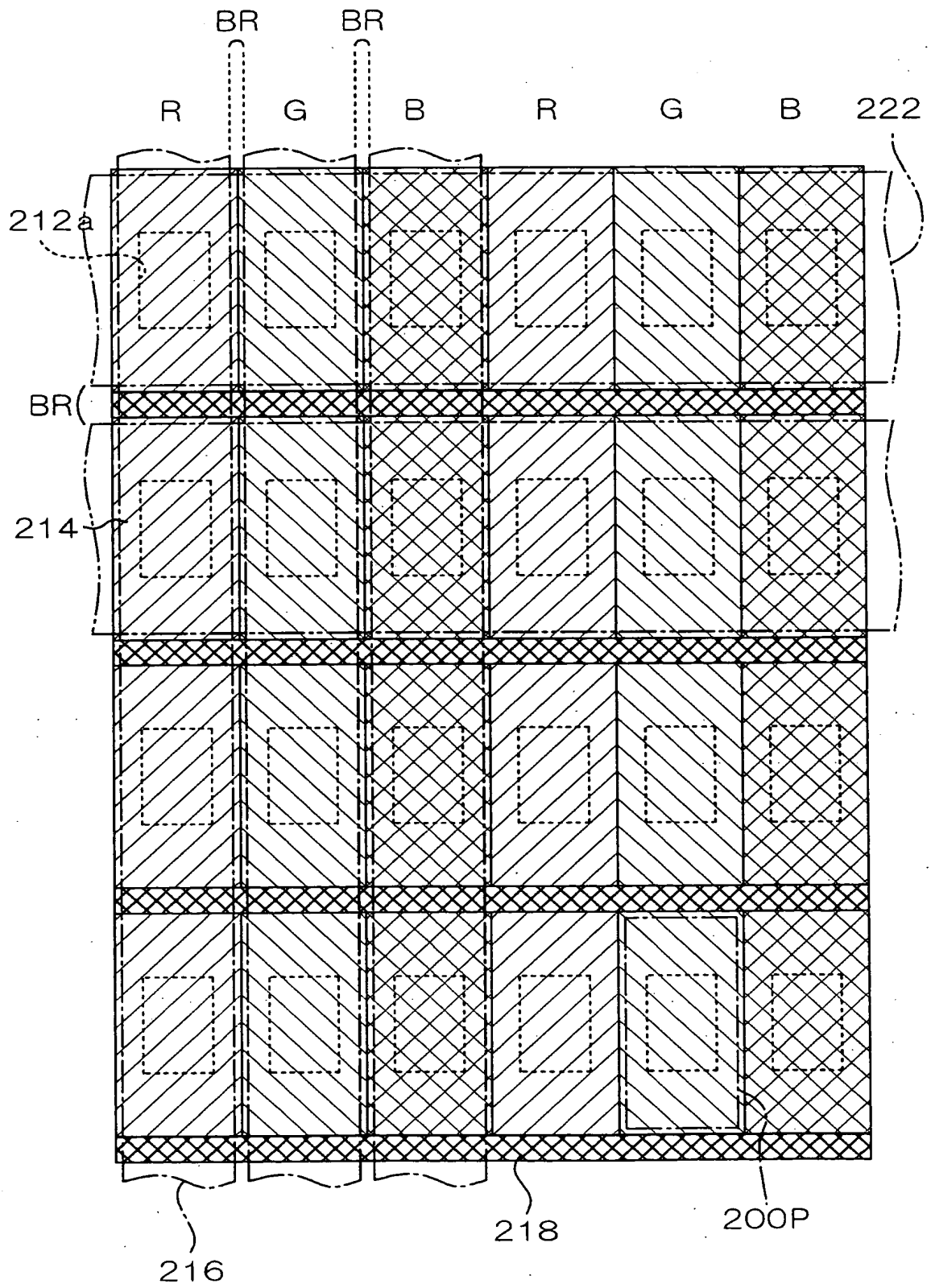
[Selected Figure] Fig. 4



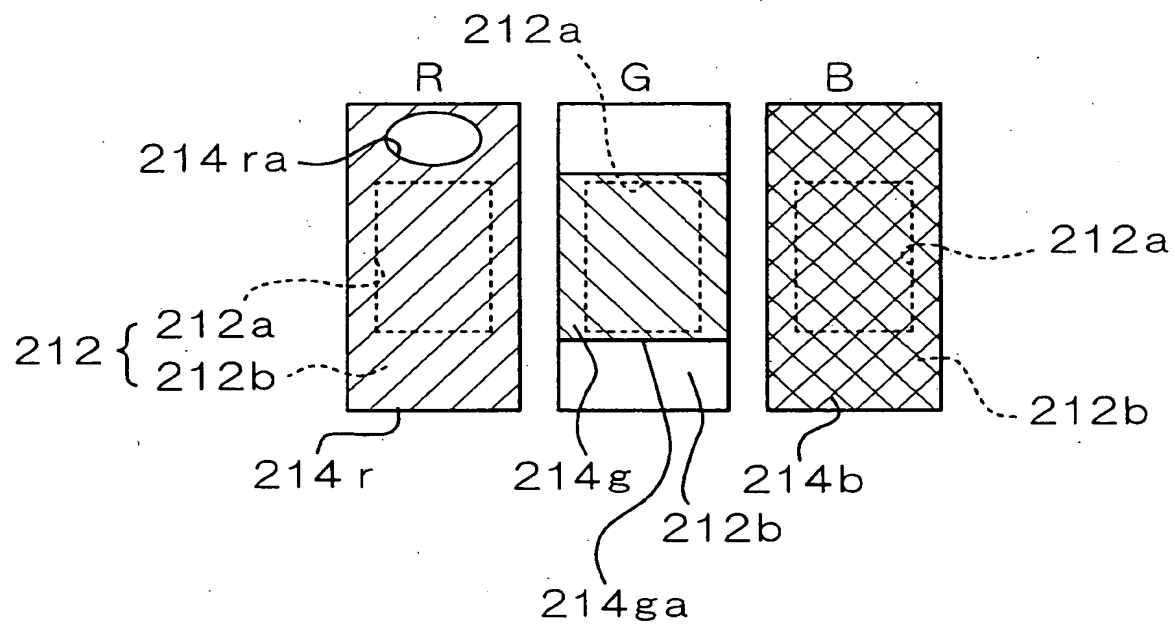
[FIG. 2]



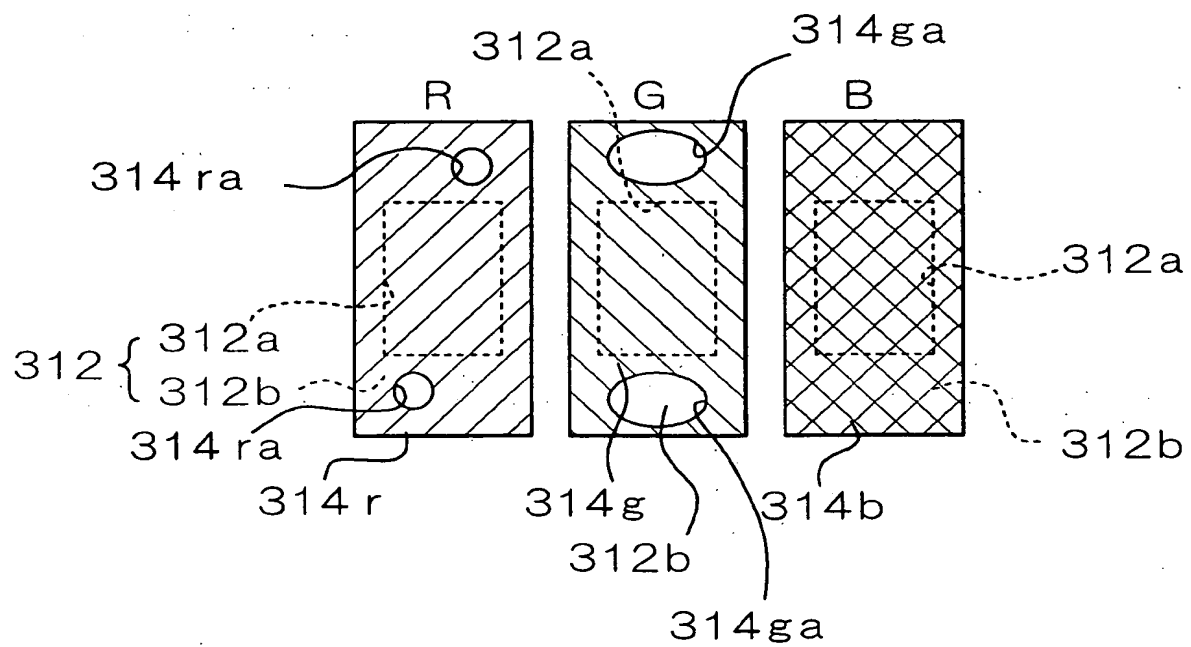
[FIG. 3]



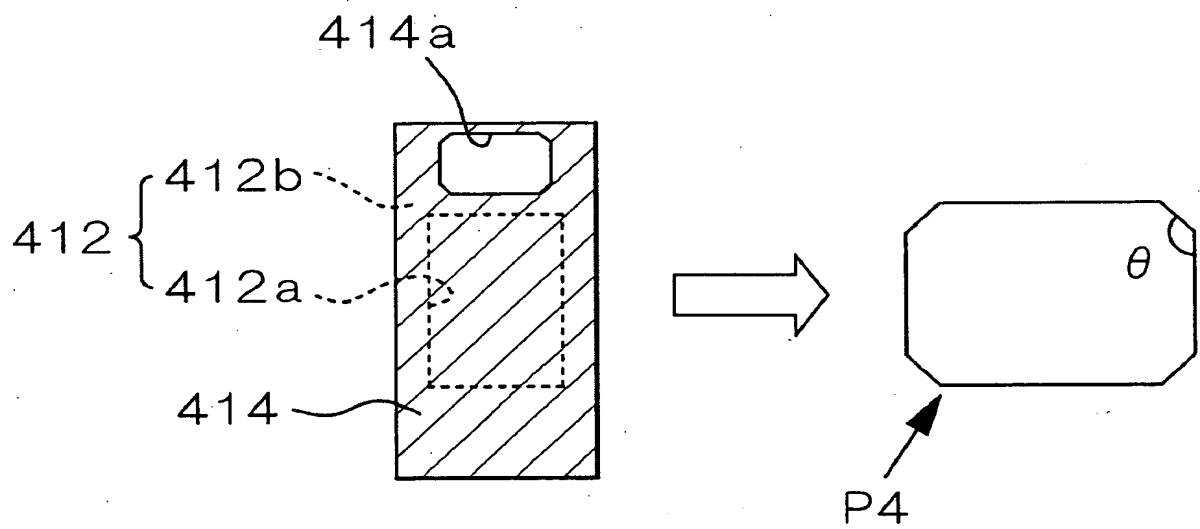
[FIG. 4]



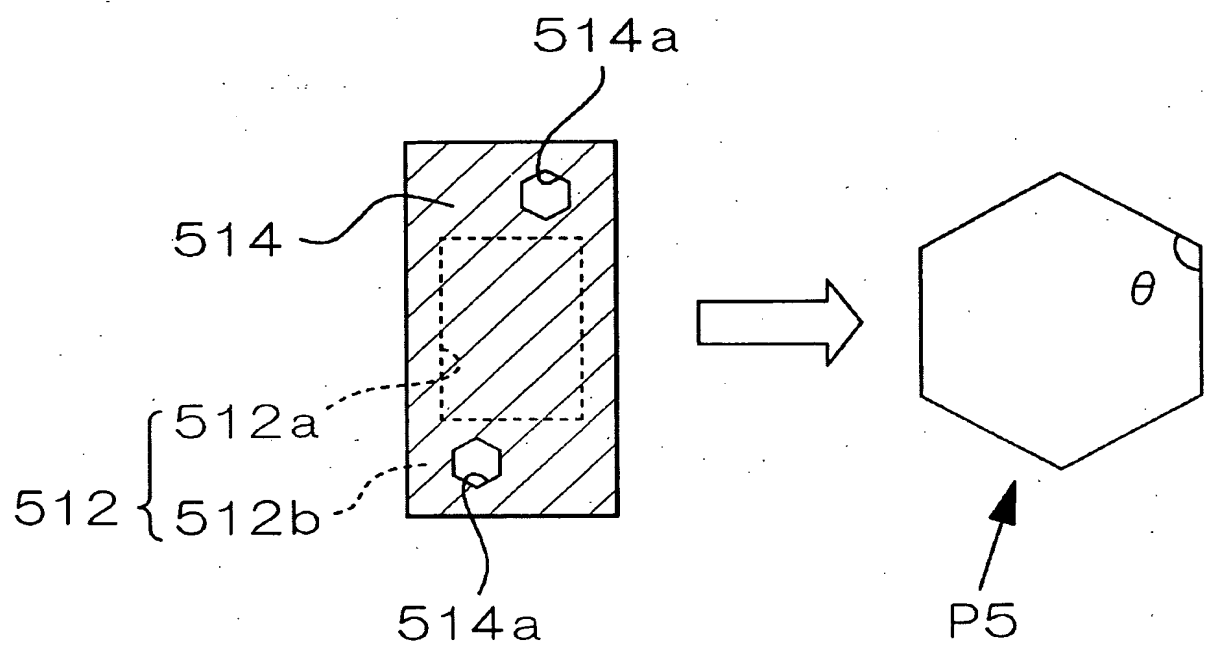
[FIG. 5]



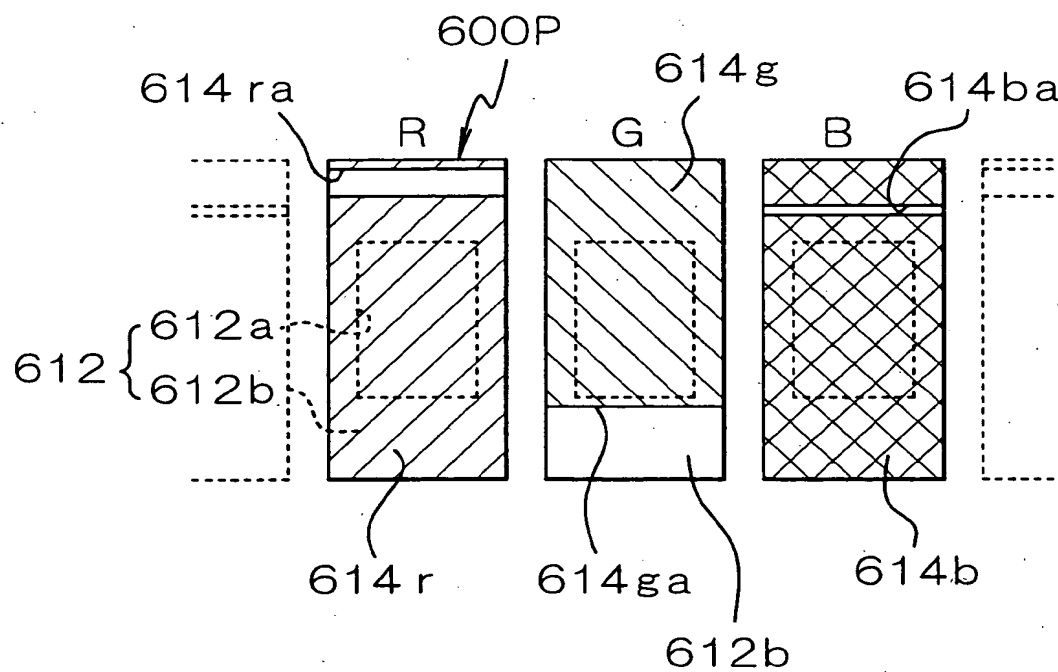
[FIG. 6]



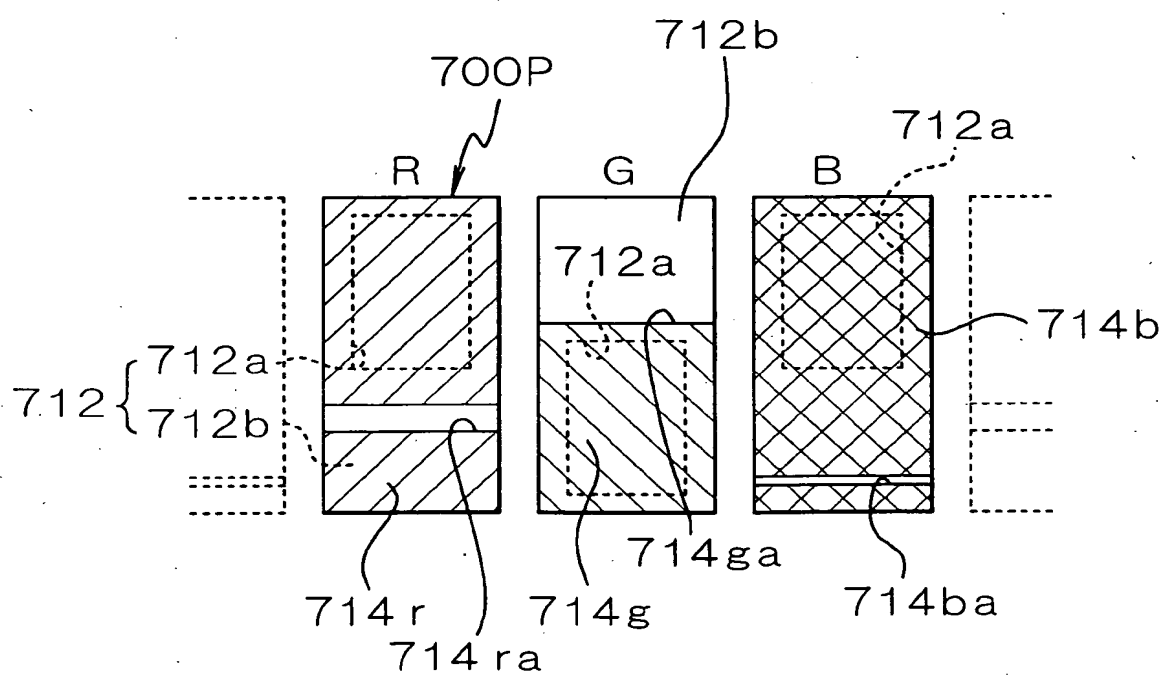
[FIG. 7]



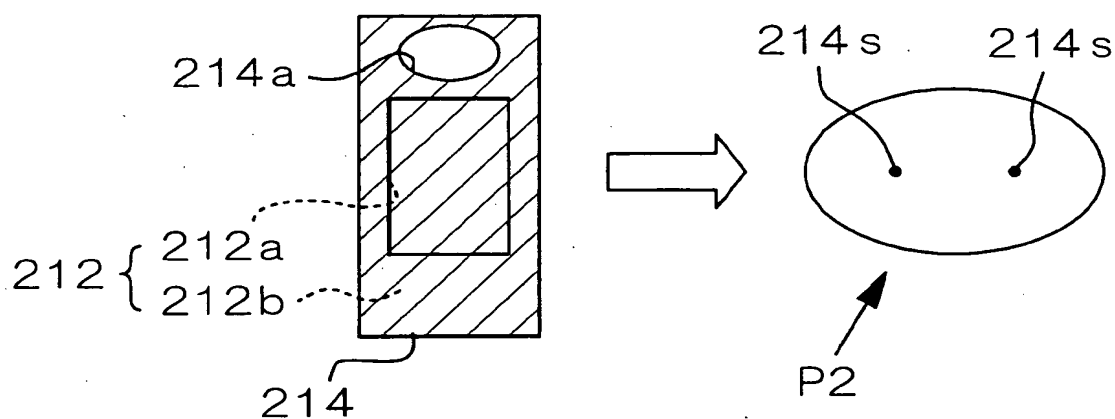
[FIG. 8]



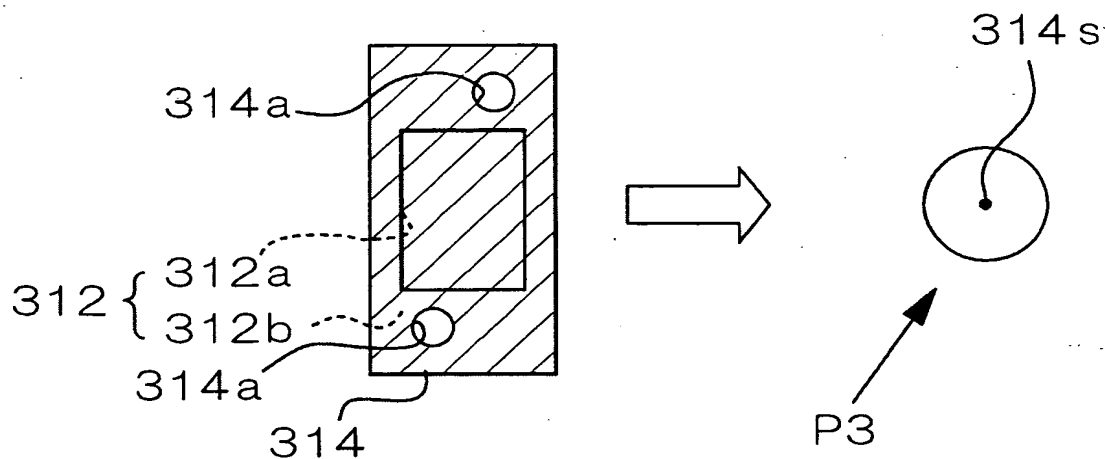
[FIG. 9]



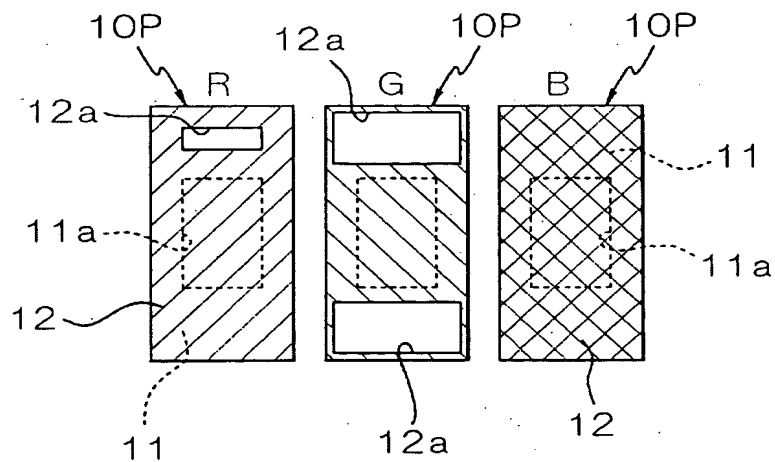
[FIG. 10]



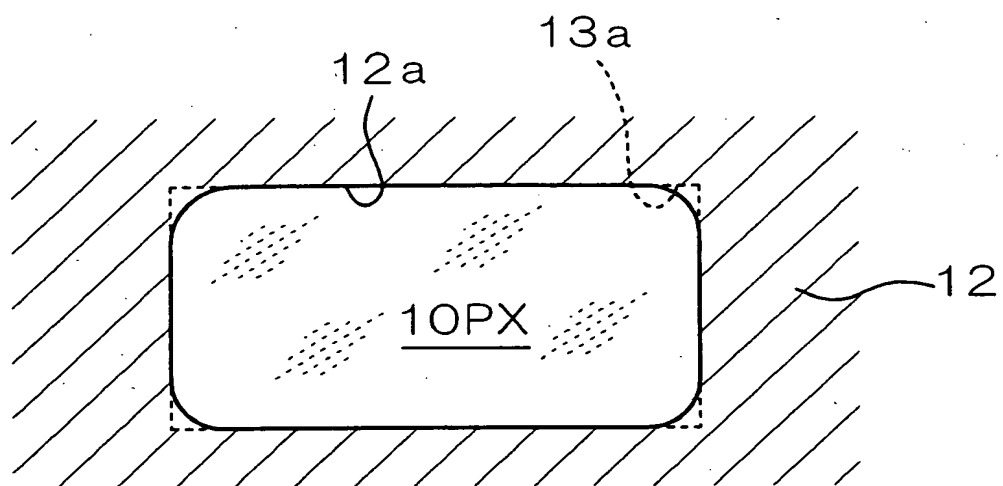
[FIG. 11]



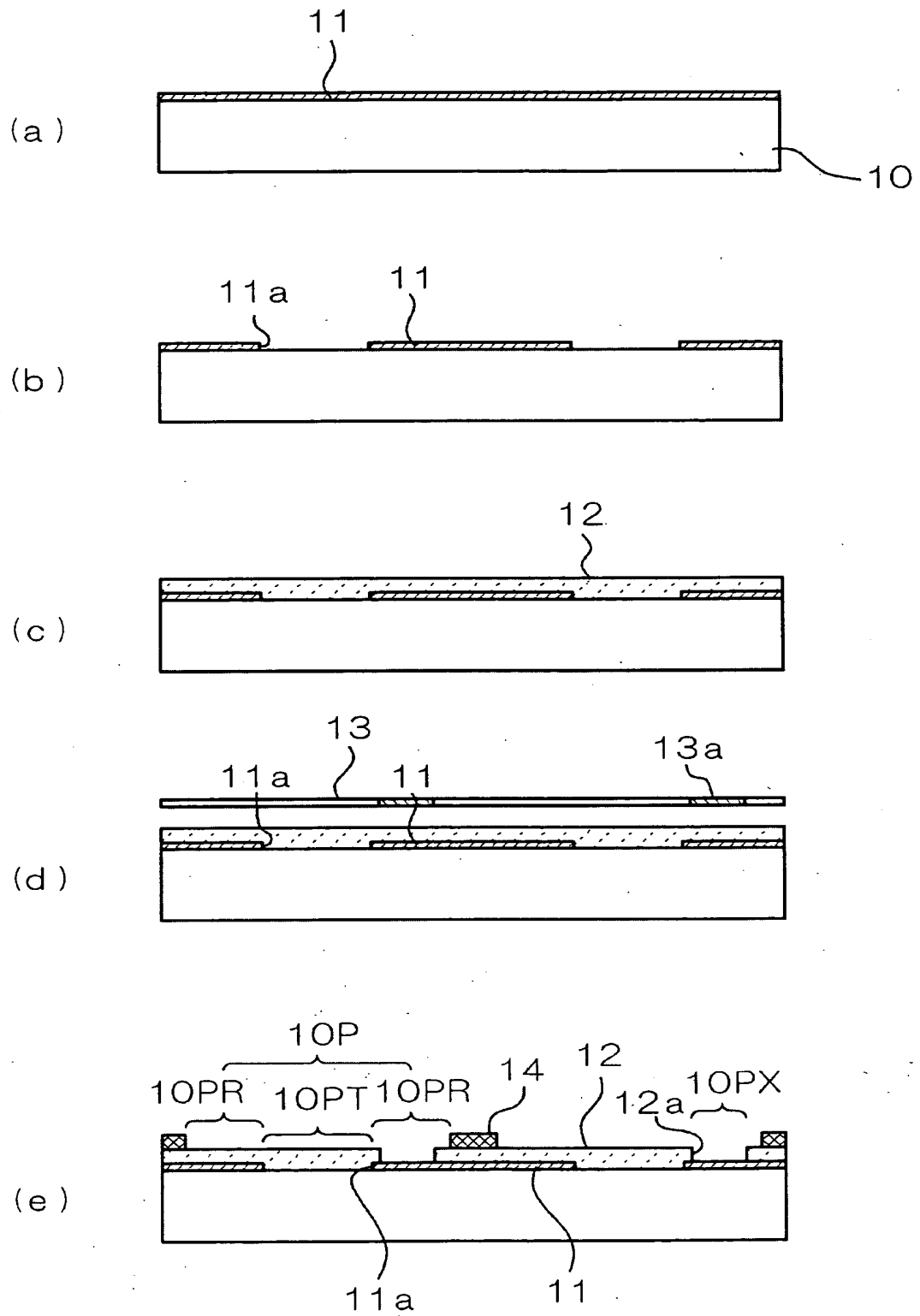
[FIG. 12]



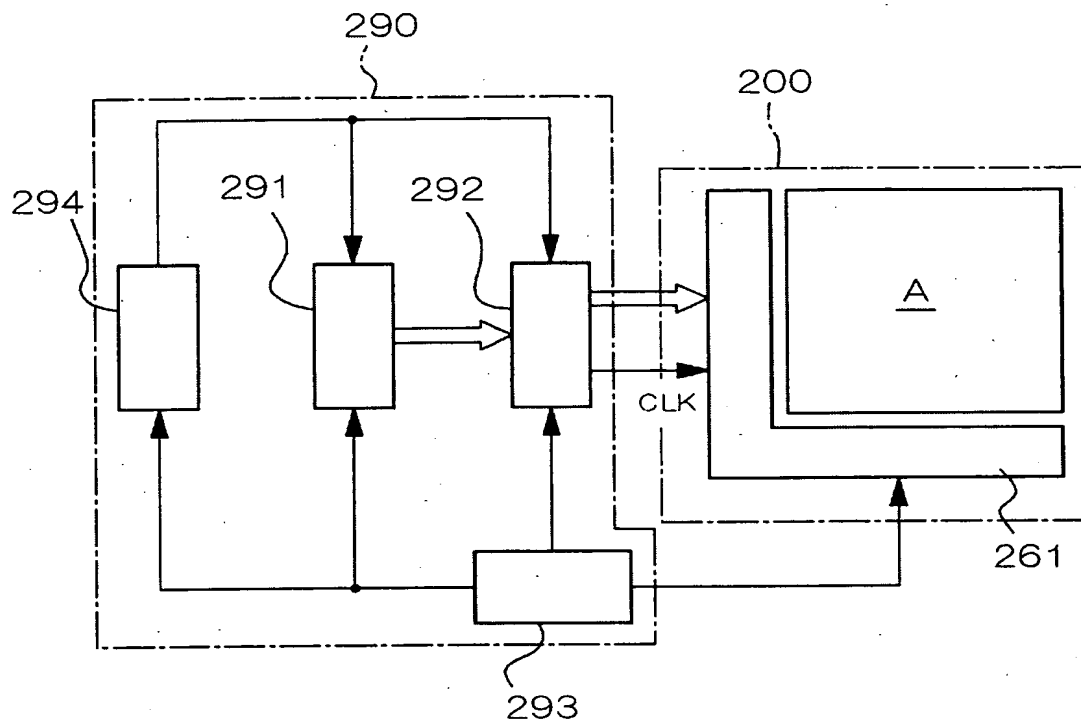
[FIG. 13]



[FIG. 14]



[FIG. 15]



[FIG. 16]

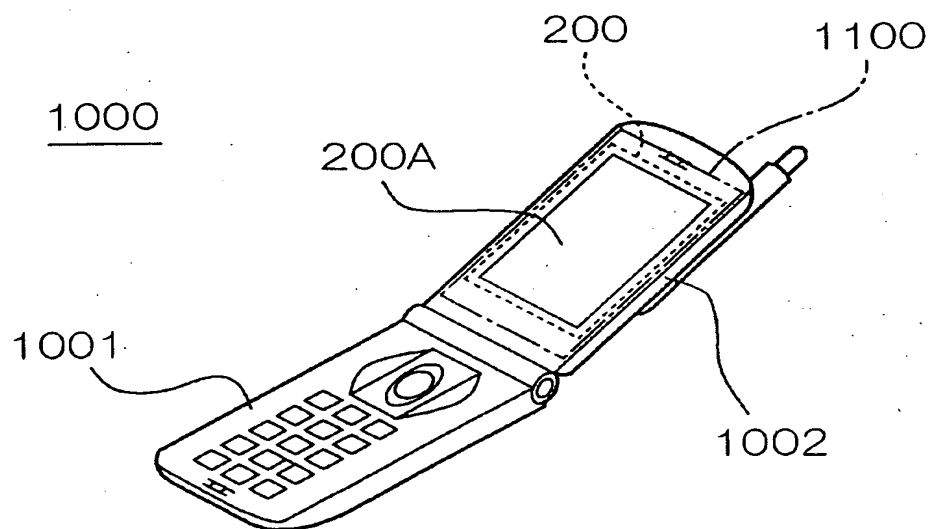


Fig. 15 is a block diagram showing the construction of an electro-optical device and its display control system in an electronic apparatus according to the present invention.

[Fig. 16]

Fig. 16 is a schematic perspective view showing the external appearance of a mobile phone as an example of an electronic apparatus.

[Reference Numerals]

200 ... liquid crystal panel; 210 ... color filter substrate; 220 ... opposed substrate; 212 ... transflective layer; 212a ... transmitting section; 212b ... reflecting section; 214 ... colored layer; 214a ... opening